(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Intensive Manhunt Is Quickly Mounted

President Johnson's Plane Is Reported En Route To Memphis; State Guard Alerted

By JOHN MEANS

A sniper shot and killed Dr. Martin Luther King last night as he stood on the balcony of a downtown hotel.

The most intensive manhunt in the city's history was touched off minutes after the shooting

Violence broke out in Memphis, Nashville, Birmingham, Miami, Raleigh, Washington, New York and other cities as news of the assassination swept the nation.

National leaders, including President Lyndon Johnson, and aides close to the slain 39-year-old Nobel Peace Prize winner, urged the nation to stand calm and avoid violence.

The entire nation was tense.

It was learned early this morning that Air Force One — the President's plane — had left Washington. It may be en route to Memphis.

There was no confirmation that the President was aboard.

The slaying of Dr. King brought Tennessee National Guardsmen back into Memphis. The entire 11,000 men in the state guard were on alert early today.

Memphis was placed under a tight, 24-hour curfew by Mayor Henry Loeb.

All schools will be closed today. Parents were urged to keep their children at home.

A rifle bullet slammed into Dr. King's jaw and neck at 6:01 p.m.

He died in the emergency room at St. Joseph Hospital at 7:05 p.m.

King, the foremost American civil rights leader, was alone on the second-floor walk of the Lorraine Hotel at 406 Mulberry when the bullet struck.

A young white man is believed to have fired the fatal shot from a nearby building.

Looters and vandals roamed the streets despite the imposition of a tight curfew. Shooting was widespread. National Guardsmen were rushed to the North Memphis area of Springdale and Howell after bullets blasted the windshield out of a police car near there.

Police — estimated at more than 150 — descended on the south Memphis hotel, sealed off the area, and almost immediately broadcast a description of the sniper: a white male, 30 to 32 years old, 5 feet, 10 inches tall, about 165 pounds, dark to sandy hair, medium build, ruddy complexion as if he worked outside, wearing a black suit and white shirt.

Frank R. Ahlgren, editor of The Commercial Appeal, announced that the newspaper will pay a $25,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of Dr. King's assassin.

ENCLOSURE

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

PAGE 1 + 12

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Dr. King returned to Memphis Wednesday morning to map plans for another downtown march — scheduled for next Monday — in support of the city's striking sanitation workers. He had spent part of the day yesterday awaiting reports from his attorneys, who were in Federal Judge Bailey Brown's courtroom asking that a temporary restraining order against the proposed march be lifted.

The injunction was obtained by the city after Dr. King's first march broke out in violence downtown, brought the National Guard to the city in strength and seriously damaged the Negro leader's reputation for nonviolence. For the first time in his career, he had been present during violence, and it was this picture he was planning to dispel with the march next Monday.

Mayor Loeb declared today, tomorrow and Sunday as days of mourning, and said all flags in the city would be lowered "with appropriate observances."

All ministers, priests and rabbis in the Memphis area have been asked to meet at 10 a.m. today at St. Mary's Cathedral (Episcopal).

Frank Holloman, fire and police director, who took personal command of the murder investigation minutes after the shooting, said "every resource" of city, county, state and federal law enforcement agencies "is committed and dedicated to identifying and apprehending the person or persons responsible."

Mayor Loeb ordered a tight curfew, much stricter than the one imposed after last week's rioting. "All movement is restricted except for health or emergency reasons," the order said.

A few minutes after the shooting, police reported a high-speed chase in which a blue Pontiac was being pursued by a white Mustang out the Austin Peay Highway. Shots were reported fired between the two cars. A white Mustang, seen near the scene of the slaying, was still being sought by police early today.

Officials of Dr. King's Southern Christian Leadership Conference, some of whom were standing near him on the narrow balcony of the hotel when he was shot, continued to urge his nonviolent teachings. His chief lieutenant, Dr. Ralph Abernathy, went to the Mason Temple last night to address a gathering of Dr. King's followers.

"Let us live for what he died for," Dr. Abernathy told the mourning group. "If we respect his leadership, if we appreciate the service that he rendered, then we must do all in our power to carry forth the work that is incomplete.

"If a riot or violence would erupt in Memphis tonight, Dr. King in Heaven would not be pleased."

A few had other ideas. "He died for us, and we're going to die for him," a young man shouted.

Early Friday morning, Mr. Holloman said police believe the murder weapon was a 30-caliber, pump-action Remington rifle equipped with a telescopic sight. Such a weapon was among those stolen Tuesday night from Dowdle Sporting Goods Co. at 2896 Walnut Grove Road.

"The distance over which the bullet traveled before it struck Dr. King was 205 feet, 3 inches, at a down angle," Mr. Holloman said.

He also detailed "other evidence . . . that may help us identify the assassin. The shot was fired from the window of a common bathroom at the end of the hall on the east side of the building at 420 South Main. The suspect checked into the boarding house between 3 and 3:30 p.m. His room was close to the bathroom. The suspect was a white man, 6 feet tall, about 165-175 pounds, between 26 and 32 years of age."

"We do know he bought a pair of binoculars this (Thursday) afternoon in Memphis . . . The man was seen to run from the 420 South Main building and discard the gun and a suitcase at 424 South Main. He simply faded. Nobody saw him get in the car, but a white Mustang was seen to flee the area.

"The evidence we now have indicates that only one man was physically in the area (the bathroom)."

Mr. Holloman would not reveal where the binoculars were purchased, and said he did not know if the name used by the sniper is his real one.

The gun found at the Main street address was turned over to the FBI for ballistics tests. Mr. Holloman said his office is "working closely with the FBI" on other aspects of the investigation.

The former FBI officer also said the investigation was "impaired by the riot situation which developed almost immediately."

"The bullet knocked him off his feet," said the Rev. Jesse Jackson, executive staff member of SCLC. "It sounded like

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'That Song, 'Precious Lord,' Sing It Real Pretty,' Was The Last Request Of Slain Rights Leader

(Continued from Page One)

a stick of dynamite, or a big firecracker."

The Rev. Mr. Jackson said Dr. King had walked out of his room ahead of several friends on the way to a dinner engagement at the home of the Rev. Samuel B. Kyles.

His last words were in reply to his chauffeur, Solomon Jones Jr., on the street below.

"I went out to start the car," Mr. Jones reported. "Dr. King was on the porch. I yelled up at him it was cool out, you better put your topcoat on. Dr. King said 'OK, I will.' He smiled and then I heard the shot."

"He just fell back. I turned around and I saw a man jump out of the thicket across the street. He ran toward Main. We all scattered.

"I got to the fire escape and climbed up to Dr. King's balcony. There was a white man there. I don't know who he was, but they said he lived at the hotel. Dr. King looked dead. The white man covered his face with a cloth."

Moments before, Dr. King was talking to Ben Branch, singer and bandleader who was to appear with him at the Mason Temple rally.

"I want you to sing for me tonight," the world's youngest Nobel Peace Prize winner said. "I want you to do that song for me, 'Precious Lord.' Sing it real pretty."

The slain leader's wife, Mrs. Coretta King, remained in Atlanta last night. Told by telephone that her husband had been shot, she was awaiting a plane to Memphis when she was notified that the wound was fatal.

Dr. King was bleeding profusely from a huge wound in the jaw and neck area as he lay face down on the concrete walkway of the hotel.

About 40 Negro men and women heard the announcement from the emergency room shortly after 7. The women began to cry and the men began exclaiming:

"Dr. King is dead. He'll have to be buried. We gotta do something about it. Do you hear?"

The curfew was ordered within minutes by Mayor Loeb, who heard the news of Dr. King's assassination on his pi. He immediately returned to his office, and remained in contact with Mr. Holloman and other officials.

The curfew closed down liquor stores and night spots in the city immediately. West Memphis liquor stores also were closed, and Arkansas Gov. Winthrop Rockefeller placed the 175-man West Memphis unit of the Arkansas National Guard on alert status.

The Rev. Mr. Jackson said police "came from everywhere" after the shooting. He estimated there were 150 officers on the scene within seconds, but "it was similar to the Kennedy incident. The police were all around, but there is no military protection against an ambush, and he was ambushed."

Mr. Holloman said he had assigned about 40 officers to protect Dr. King, though none of the SCLC officials had asked for protection for their leader. Some of these had been nearby ever since he returned to Memphis, and some were "within a few yards of him" when he was shot.

Two men inside the amusement company at 424 South Main said they saw a man racing from the scene in a white Mustang. Bernell Finley and Julius Graham said they heard "a thump" outside, looked out, "and there was this gun lying in the box, just sitting there."

David Wood, 25, of 3639 Townes, was drinking beer at Jim's Grill next door to Canipe's Amusements. He saw the Mustang parked in front of the cafe.

"The car had no front tag and no inspection sticker, so it must have been from out of state," said Mr. Wood.

Six other Tayloe employes corrobrated Mr. Wood's account. They had been drinking beer in the grill for an hour.

Lloyd Jowers, owner of the grill, said the Mustang was parked in front of his white Cadillac. He also said he felt he would have known if anyone had rented a room in the last few days at 418½ South Main, over the cafe. He identified the owner of the rooming area as C. L. Short and the manager as Charles Stevens. The rooms are blocked off by police.

Some of the police technicians brought down a bucket and some miscellaneous stuff.

Ironically, Dr. King chose the hotel where he was shot because it was operated by Negroes, spurning the more secluded Holiday Inn-Rivermont where he was quartered last week.

He had reported threats on his life after last week's march, but "these reports did not bother him," said the Rev. Andrew Young, executive director of SCLC. He often joked with newsmen that his schedule depended on whether he lived long enough to fill it.

Beaten several times, he was stabbed in 1958 by a Negro woman in a Harlem book store in 1958, and almost died then. His home was booby trapped with a dynamite bomb during the Birmingham boycott, and another house where he was staying was sprayed with rifle bullets.

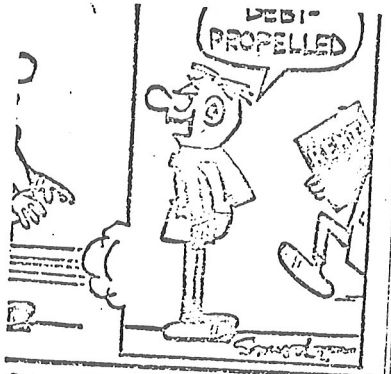
He came to Memphis in 1965 for another march, the completion of the one begun by James Meredith, who was gunned down by a Memphian near Hernando, Miss., as he walked down Highway 51 on his way to Jackson. Mr. Meredith was not seriously hurt.

The man who made "We Shall Overcome" a national anthem to millions of Negroes now joins a growing list of their martyrs, including Medgar Evers and Vernon Dahmer, civil rights leaders who died violently. Evers, too, was the victim of a sniper's bullet, and Dahmer was burned to death in his fire-bombed home in Hattiesburg, Miss.

Dr. King's nonviolent protest policy earned him numerous comparisons to Mohandas Gandhi, the Indian religious leader who used nonviolence to break the back of the British Empire in India. Gandhi, too, was the victim of an assassin.

In Washington, the leaders of the union whose attempts to organize Memphis' sanitation workers brought Dr. King here, said the union will march Monday in his honor.

Jerry Wurf, president, and Joseph L. Ames, secretary-treasurer of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Workers, called on Mayor Loeb "to provide conditions of safety for the men and women who march in this tribute to our martyred leader."



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2-door hardtop, Powerglide, V-8, power steering, 18,000 one owner miles, blue with white top, a brand new car.

'66 MUSTANG ... $1695
3 speed, V-8, radio, heater, ready to go.

'65 BEL AIR $1695
4-door sedan, powerglide, power steering, factory air, blue.

'67 MALIBU $2395
2-door hardtop, powerglide, V-8, power steering, factory air, light green.

'65 MALIBU $1595
2 door hardtop, Powerglide, V-8, blue with white top.

'65 CORVAIR $995
2 door hardtop, 3 speed, white with red interior, good gas mileage.

'67 IMPALA $2495
4 door sedan, power and air, cream color, low mileage, still in warranty.

'67 CAMARO $2195
Automatic, V-8, 11,000 actual miles, like new.

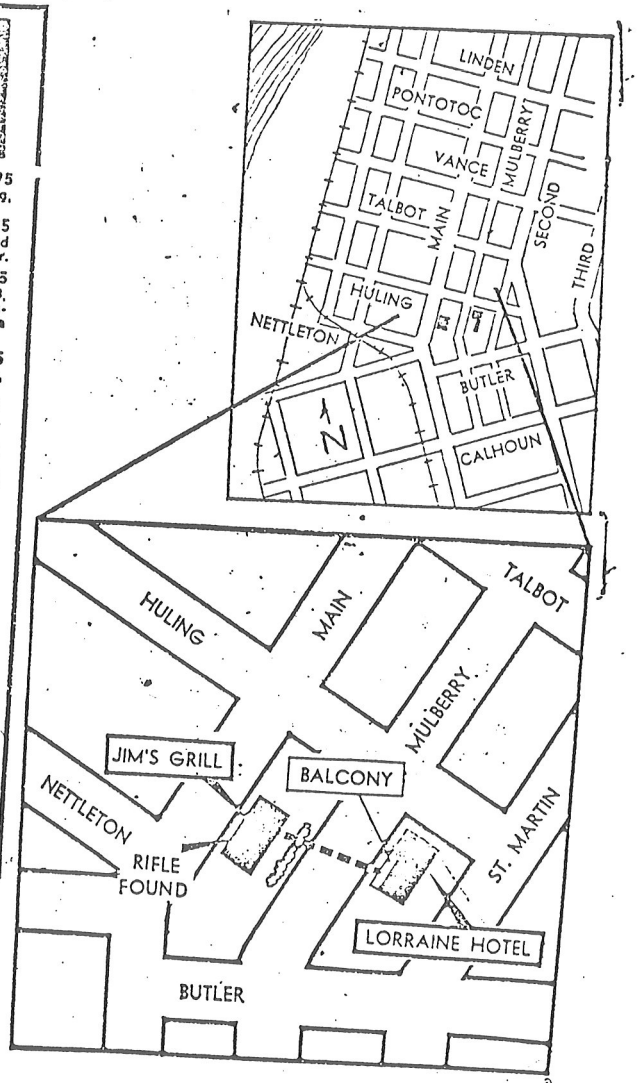
SEE OR CALL
RAY "ACE" HARRIS
ROOSTER NELSON
BILL SMITH
C. C. "PAT" TAYLOR

The Scene

The bullet that killed Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. yesterday was probably fired from one of the windows in the building at right, above Jim's Grill, 418 South Main. The rifle believed to have fired the fatal shot was found in the doorway of the building at left, the Canipe Amusement Co., 424 South Main.

—Staff Photo by Robert Williams

(Stories, Additional Pictures on Pages 1, 12 and 13)



Broken Line Shows Probable Path Of Bullet

—Staff Map by William Herrington